

PT 20/3 SCS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL SLIP		CLASSIFICATION Unclassified
		DATE 2/24/78
TO For the Attention of		
FROM AmEmbassy Georgetown Consular Section		
CA/SCSC/STY TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE		TO THE DEPARTMENT
☐ For Transmittal to Addressee at the Discretion of Post ☐ Post Information Only ☐ Transmit to Foreign Office ☐ Submit Report ☒ Reply to the Individual		☐ Dept. Information Only ☐ CERP Publications ☐ Enclosure to Previous Airgram ☐ Reply to Department Request
☐ Transmit to: ☐ Inform:		(U. S. Agency)
REFERENCE		
Letter of Feb. 6 from [REDACTED] concerning [REDACTED] at the People's Temple.		
ITEMS/REMARKS		
IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NUMBER AND DRAFTING OFFICE		
FILE NO.	SIGNATURE [Signature]	
CLASSIFICATION	OFFICE CA/SCS, WW	

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EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
 REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
 PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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PT 2883 SCS

[REDACTED]
February 6, 1978

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
U.S. State Department
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to express to you my grave concern about [REDACTED] who are now living in Guyana--with the People's Temple--a communal church led by Mr. Jim Jones.

I have not heard from them for almost two years and my letters to the Temple have not been forwarded to them, but have been returned to me. [REDACTED] who was also in the Temple, left it two years ago. From her, I have learned a variety of things that have occurred and are practiced in the People's Temple. Some of these include the public beating of church members, their degradation before the assembled congregation, the signing of self-incriminating statements, and so on. I personally have been shown, by a Mr. Chaikin, one of the Temple attorneys, a copy of one such self-incriminating statement. At the time I was shown the statement, he and other Temple representatives were telling me that [REDACTED] was having sexual relations with her foster father, in order (I suspect) to enlist my support in returning her to Temple membership. I came to the conclusion, in my contacts with Temple representatives, that the Temple is a very powerful organization which is paranoid in philosophy (society will attempt to crush us) and is very secretive concerning its operations. I also came to the conclusion that it systematically limits the information and news received by its members concerning the rest of society, and by persuasion and coercion actively attempts to prevent defectors from its ranks.

I am writing you in the hope that the State Department might be able to assist me in personally contacting [REDACTED]. I would like to see them in such a situation as might make it possible for them to make a relatively free choice to leave or stay in the Temple. Friends of mine have contacted their children after considerable effort and expense, only to meet their children surrounded by Temple members, and only after their children had apparently been subjected to great psychological pressure under conditions of sleep deprivation.

I also hope that the State Department and other government departments might consider investigating Temple affairs both in Guyana and in the United States. I consider it a reasonable possibility that the Temple, having sizeable amounts of United States dollars in its possession, may eventually be able to subvert the government of Guyana--a small underdeveloped and unsophisticated country. If the latter occurs, it would certainly not be in the interests of the United States.

I would appreciate your responding to me concerning my request for assistance in my efforts to reach my [REDACTED] in Guyana at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

this
broken
in 1978
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P.S. I am enclosing my resume to identify myself.

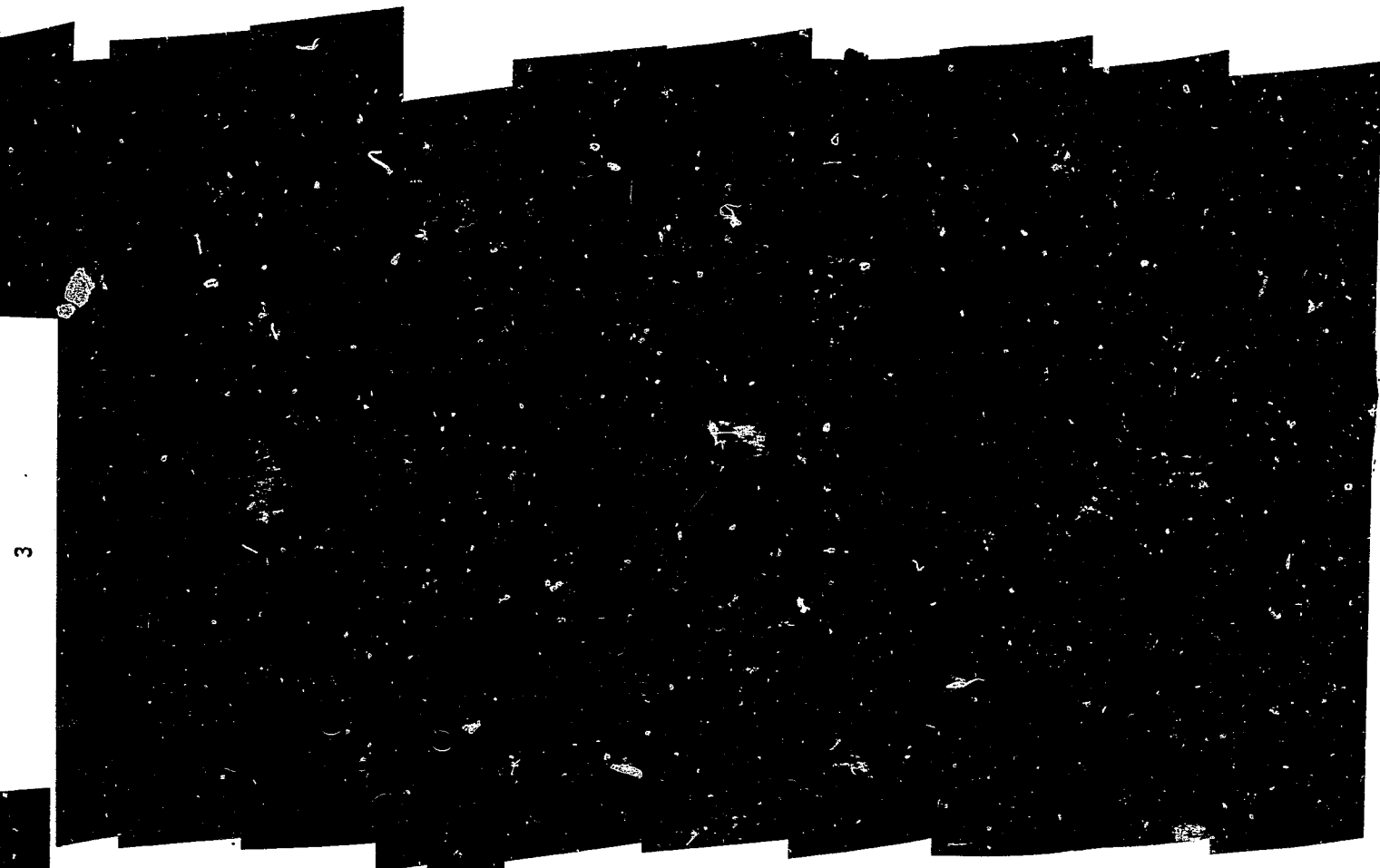
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